Procurement of wheat and rice by FCI

*267. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have urged for provision of funds to the Food Corporation of India to procure entire on going rabi rice in the States; and

(b) if so, to what extent FCI has been able to procure all the wheat and rice in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh only to place funds at the disposal of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in order to ensure smooth procurement of Rabi rice.

Under the present system of procurement, the producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at support prices or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Notwithstanding that, 206.14 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured this year as against 163.56 lakh tonnes last year. The procurement of rice during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01 so far is 184.96 lakh tonnes as against 172.73 lakh tonnes procured during the last Kharif Marketing Season.

Functioning of ESI Hospitals / Dispensaries

*268. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, recently, reviewed the functioning of Dispensaries / Hospitals under the Employees State Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of the proposals received for expansion / upgradation of medical services / Institutions under ESI in the State; and